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Contact: Kevin Kerstein  
Publicity Manager  
Churchill Downs Racetrack  
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)  
(502) 635-4712 (office)  
[Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com)

## HONORABLE DUTY CONTINUES PREPARATION FOR SECOND-STRAIGHT LUKAS CLASSIC VICTORY

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018) – DARRS, Inc.’s** multiple graded stakes winner **Honorable Duty** “couldn’t look any better,” according to his trainer **Brendan Walsh**, as the classy 6-year-old gelding continues to train to defend his crown in the Sept. 29, \$200,000 Lukas Classic (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

“He’s been doing great all summer,” Walsh said. “He ran so well in this race last year so it is a great spot to get him ready for Fair Grounds this winter.”

Honorable Duty, the son Distorted Humor, charged home to a 4 ¾-length win in the 2017 Lukas Classic but tailed off form at the end of the year with a last-place finish in the Fayette Stakes (GII) at Keeneland and pulled up on the far turn of the Clark Handicap (GI) at Churchill Downs.

“I still think he didn’t like the muddy surface over at Keeneland for the Fayette,” Walsh said. “He was doing just fine coming into the race but he just didn’t handle the track. Then, in the Clark, I’m not too sure what happened. The good news is he bounced back fine after a little time away and is doing great.”

Honorable Duty began his 2018 campaign with a five-length romp in a conditional allowance race on May 20 and a second-place effort behind **Pavel** in the June 16 Stephen Foster Handicap (GI) at Churchill Downs.

“We did what we did last year and gave him the summer off after the Stephen Foster,” Walsh said. “I had him pop out of the gate Friday for a very nice work (four furlongs in :49). He’s ready. We just have to get lucky.”

The probable favorite for the Lukas Classic is one of the nation’s top sprinters **Mind Your Biscuits**, who has multiple Grade I victories and earnings topping \$4.15 million. The colt is prepping in the 1 1/8-mile race for a start in the Breeders’ Cup on Nov. 3 at Churchill Downs.

Walsh has not ruled out the possibility of Honorable Duty making a start in the Breeders’ Cup Classic (GI) but said the eight-time winner would have to “run off the screen” for him to consider entering the Nov. 3 Breeders’ Cup.

Nominations to the Lukas Classic (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles along with the \$100,000 Ack Ack (GIII) for 3-year-olds and up at one mile, \$100,000 Jefferson Cup for 3-year-olds at 1 1/8 miles on the turf and \$100,000 President of the UAE Cup (GI) for Arabian-breds at 1 1/16 miles close Saturday. To nominate visit: <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nomination-forms/>

**SATURDAY WORK TAB FILLED WITH POTENTIAL BREEDERS’ CUP CONTENDERS** – There were 145 horses on Saturday’s work tab at Churchill Downs that included possible Breeders’ Cup contenders **Promises Fulfilled** and **Mr Freeze** for trainer **Dale Romans**.

“It was like murderer’s row after the break with all of the stakes horses,” Romans life partner and exercise rider **Tammy Fox** said.

One of the nation’s top sprinters, **Bob Baron’s** Promises Fulfilled, returned to the work tab with a half-mile move in :48.20 following his 1 ¼-length win in the H. Allen Jerkens Stakes (Grade I) at Saratoga.

“We’re getting ready for the Breeders’ Cup,” Romans said. “We’ll have to see what spot we go in, either the Sprint (GI) or Dirt Mile (GI) but it was a great work today.”

Working in the set after Promises Fulfilled was late-blooming 3-year-old **Mr Freeze**, who clipped through five furlongs in 1:00.40. The West Virginia Derby (GIII) winner is preparing for a start in the Sept. 22 Pennsylvania Derby (GII) at Parx Race Course. The colt is possible contender for the Breeders’ Cup Classic (GI), according to Romans.

Scheduled to breeze Sunday at Churchill Downs is Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) winner **Monomoy Girl**. The filly, who is one of the top contenders for the Breeders’ Cup Distaff (GI), is slated to work at 7:30 a.m., according to trainer **Brad Cox**.

The complete Saturday work tab is available at: <https://bit.ly/2xeQ8d3>

**MENA BACK WORKING HORSES AFTER FRACTURING RIGHT ANKLE AND HEEL IN MARCH** – It has been a welcomed sight for many horsemen and jockeys on the backstretch of Churchill Downs as journeyman rider **Miguel Mena** returned on horseback after fracturing eight bones in his right ankle and heel six months ago.

“It feels great to be back on horses and here at the track each morning,” Mena said. “I’m not quite ready to get back to riding races but I hope to be ready soon. The doctors originally told me I’d be out six-to-eight months and November would be right at eight months. I feel good and my ankle is getting stronger every day.”

Mena was injured March 15 at Fair Grounds when his mount clipped heels in the stretch run of a \$5,000 claiming event.

A winner of 1,844 races in his 16-year career, Mena has already breezed several horses at Churchill Downs including Risen Star (Grade II) winner and Travers (GI) third **Bravazo** for **D. Wayne Lukas**.

“It amazes me how much bigger and stronger he’s gotten since the last time I was on him,” Mena said.

The 31-year-old Peruvian hopes to return to the races in the next month.

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – There is a \$52,391 carryover in the 50-cent Pick 5 (Races 7-11) and \$8,875 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot (Races 6-11) on Saturday’s program at Churchill Downs. The Single 6 sequence begins at 3:16 p.m. (all times Eastern) and the Pick 5 gets underway at 3:48 p.m. ... Friday’s kick off of the September Meet featured a different jockey and trainer winning every race. “Well, I guess I’m tied for leading trainer,” veteran conditioner **Rick Hiles** joked following **Rose of Malibu**’s win in Race 6. ... The podcast of **‘Inside Churchill Downs’** that aired Friday with trainers **Ignacio Correas IV** and **Chad Summers** along with private clocker and bloodstock agent **Brandon Stauble** is available at: <https://bit.ly/2Opccsa>.

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